



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/651,548	08/29/2000	Barry Atkins	RPS920000026US1	9903
42640	7590	07/11/2007	EXAMINER	
DILLON & YUDELL LLP 8911 NORTH CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY SUITE 2110 AUSTIN, TX 78759			SHIN, KYUNG H	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2143		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		07/11/2007	PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/651,548	ATKINS, BARRY	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Kyung H. Shin	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2007.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## PROSECUTION REOPENED

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 4/11/2005, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

2. This action is responding to BPAI Decision filed 4/5/2007. Claims 1 - 24 are pending. Independent claims are 1, 9, 17.

### *Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 12, 14 - 20, 22 - 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Doonan et al.** (US Patent No. 6,807,277) in view of **Cook** (US Patent No. 6,732,101).

**Regarding Claims 1, 9, 17,** Doonan discloses a network messaging system. (see Doonan col. 1, lines 10-12: “*... present invention is directed to a secure electronic messaging system ...*”) Doonan discloses a method, a system and program product for managing a user key used to sign a message for a data processing system, the method comprising:

- a) assigning a user key to a user and storing the user key in an encrypted data processing system utilized to encrypt messages; (see Doonan col. 2, lines 1-7: encryption key assigned by key server for message encryption)
- b) encrypting the messages with the user key; (see Doonan col. 2, lines 7-8: message is encrypted)
- c) storing an associated key in the encrypting data processing system and encrypting the user key with the associated key to obtain an encrypted user key; (see Doonan col. 5, lines 63-67: generate an encrypted user key for transmission)
- d) the encrypting data processing system communicating at least one encrypted messages together with the encrypted user key to a recipient system in order to permit validation of an association of the user with the encrypted messages by the recipient system; (see Doonan col. 6, line 1: encrypted message and encrypted key are transmitted to recipient)

- f) computer usable media bearing the control program. (see Doonan col. 3, lines 9-12; col. 9, lines 33-44: software exists on computer readable medium for program execution)

Doonan discloses a check on the validation of a sender's credentials. (see Doonan col. 5, lines 16-20: sender credentials are verified) Doonan does not specifically disclose revoking the associated key at the encrypting data processing system to prevent validation.

However, Cook discloses:

- e) preventing validation of the association of the user with messages by revoking the associated key at the encrypting data processing system (see Cook col. 6, lines 40-50: association key deleted (revoked: see spec. page 15 lines 27-28 "Associated key A may be **revoked by simply erasing it** from server system 104.") as per specification by software component at the user system software component residing (data encryption system))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Doonan to delete (revoke) an association key and prevent validation of the association of the user as taught by Cook. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Cook in order to enable a flexible and strengthened encryption system. (see Cook col. 2, lines 33-38: "... *Messages can be encrypted using any available encryption means at the sender and sent to a*

*forwarding service. The forwarding service can forward the message to each recipient according to the recipient's decryption capability and preference. ... ")*

**Regarding Claims 2, 10, 18,** Doonan discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 1, 9, 17, further comprising:

- a) decrypting the user key with the associated key; (see Doonan col. 6, lines 1-3:  
encrypted key is decrypted)
- b) decrypting the messages with the user key. (see Doonan col. 6, lines 1-3:  
encrypted message is decrypted)

**Regarding Claims 3, 11, 19,** Doonan discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 1, 9, 17, wherein: the encrypting data processing system further comprises a client system and a server system coupled for communication, the client system (see Doonan col. 3, lines 9-12: network connected client (sender) and server system) having a client memory device and the server system having an encryption chip and a server memory device:

- a) storing the user key further comprises storing the user key in the client memory device; (see Doonan col. 9, lines 44-47: memory area used for data and workspace storage)
- b) storing the associated key further comprises storing the associated key in the server memory device; (see Doonan col. 5, lines 4-5: key is stored at server system database)

Doonan discloses a check on the validation of a sender's credentials. (see Doonan col. 5, lines 16-20: sender credentials are verified) Doonan does not specifically disclose preventing validation of messages associated with the user by eliminating the associated key from the server memory device.

However, Cook discloses:

- c) preventing validation further comprises preventing validation of messages associated with the user by eliminating the associated key from the server memory device. (see Cook col. 6, lines 40-50: deletion (revocation) of association key at system via software component on server system in order to prevent validation)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Doonan to prevent validation of messages associated with the user by eliminating the associated key as taught by Cook. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Cook in order to enable a flexible and strengthened encryption system. (see Cook col. 2, lines 33-38)

**Regarding Claims 4, 12, 20,** Doonan does not disclose a server system to receive, encryption and forward message. However, Cook discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 3, 11, 19, wherein encrypting the messages further comprises:

- a) sending the messages to be encrypted from the client system to the server system; (see Cook col. 2, lines 19-23: send message from client to server for encryption)
- b) encrypting the messages using the encryption chip of the server system; (see Cook col. 2, lines 51-55: encrypt message)
- c) sending the encrypted messages from the server system to the client system. (see Cook col. 2, lines 51-55: deliver encrypted message to recipient (client) system)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Doonan to send messages, encrypt messages, and retrieve encrypted messages as taught by Cook. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Cook in order to enable a flexible and strengthened encryption system. (see Cook col. 2, lines 33-38)

**Regarding Claims 6, 14, 22,** Doonan discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 1, 9, 17, further comprising: encrypting the associated key by using an encryption chip key which is stored on an encryption chip of the encrypting data processing system. (see Doonan col. 2, lines 3-8: encryption key transferred to sender system)

**Regarding Claims 7, 15, 23,** Doonan discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 6, 14, 22, further comprising: communicating an encrypted associated key to validate the association of the user with the encrypted messages. (see Doonan col. 5, lines 63-67: )

**Regarding Claims 8, 16, 24,** Doonan discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 7, 15, 23, further comprising: decrypting the associated key with the encryption chip key. (see Doonan col. 6, lines 1-3)

5. **Claims 5, 13, 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Doonan-Cook** and further in view of **Marshall (US Patent No. 4,888,800).**

**Regarding Claims 5, 13, 21,** Doonan-Cook does not disclose the ability to erase key information after processing of an encrypt message. However, Marshall discloses the method, system and program product according to Claims 4, 12, 20, further comprising: erasing from the server system all data relating to the encrypted messages after the encrypted messages are sent from the server system to the client system. (see Marshall col. 2, lines 30-35: key information is erased from system)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Doonan-Cook to erase all key related information after message processing maintaining only current information as taught by Marshall. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Marshall in order to enable a flexible and strengthened network key management system. (see Marshall col. 1, lines 50-58: “*... system has the advantage ... only to maintain the keys required for whatever current communication sessions ... a pair of session keys ... every time a link or session is requested ...*”)

**Conclusion**

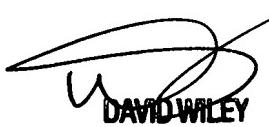
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H. Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KHS  
Kyung Hye Shin  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2143

KHS  
June 25, 2007



DAVID WILEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Application/Control Number: 09/651,548

Art Unit: 2143

Page 10